

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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For Release: **IMMEDIATE**  
Date: June 8, 2003

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**GOV. EASLEY VETOES EFFORTS TO STRIP STATE BOARD CONTROL OVER TEACHER STANDARDS**  
***Bill Would Remove Standards Authority of State Board and Give Exclusive Control to Legislature***

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley today vetoed Senate Bill 931, section four of which strips the State Board of Education of its authority to set teacher licensure requirements.

“We have made substantial progress over the past five years in education in this state because the State Board of Education has implemented rigorous standards,” said Easley. “I am not going to let the State Board’s hands be tied while they are trying to make greater gains.

“A section of the bill would strip the authority to set higher standards from the state board that has overseen the most gains in education in the country, and would put it in the political arena. Education is too important to be politicized.

“This section of the legislation is also in direct conflict with and erodes the Excellent Schools Act of 1997. We cannot retreat on our commitment to maintaining the highest standards in education.”

Easley notified legislative leadership of his intentions over the weekend after reviewing the legislation with a stack of thirty other bills on Friday. The deadline for signing the bill was midnight on Sunday, June 8.

“I doubt that most legislators were aware that the bill stripped the standard-setting authority from the State Board. The bill was primarily about another topic and this section was tacked on to the end of the legislation. If this provision is removed, I would accept the bill,” said Easley.

North Carolina has the highest percentage of students performing at or above grade level in our state’s history, leading the country in gains made in math on national assessment education tests, universally accepted as the most accurate assessment. North Carolina also leads the nation in closing the achievement gap and has the highest number of nationally board certified teachers in the country. In addition, North Carolina’s ABC accountability program served as the model for the federal “No Child Left Behind” legislation.

“Setting teacher licensure standards in the legislature not only politicizes the process, but it is an extremely inefficient way to make changes. The State Board can alter the process in one brief meeting while the Legislature can only act while in session and then usually over an extended time period.”

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